

MINUTES
Underhill Conservation Commission - Special Meeting
June 3, 2020
Remote Meeting on GoToMeeting

Present on Conference Call: Karen McKnight, Steve Webster, Nancy McRae, Daphne Tanis, Amy Golodetz, Pat Lamphere, Betsy Chapek, Laurie Graham

Absent: Peter Hiskes

Guests: David Demarest

6:30 p.m. Welcome Karen McKnight welcomed all and led the meeting.

6:31 p.m. Public Comment

David Demarest mentions that agendas should be posted to Underhill Town website in addition to FPF.

6:32 p.m. Plant Sale Discussion: Survey Results, current State COVID-19 requirements for gatherings, Farmer's Market Plans, Next Steps/Decisions

Reviewed survey results from the FPF post. Out of 18 responses, 15 believe we should host the sale and 6 have plants to donate.

Discussion about the plant sale ensues. If the plant sale were to happen, Amy believes it would be very small. Nancy mentions that we can't push back the date too far due to planting times. Daphne believes this community tradition should happen with plant and row spacing as well as masks and proper exchanging of money and reminds that the plant sale is a very quick event. Daphne would be willing to handle money with precautions. Pat is against the plant sale due to the people-to-people contact. Laurie appreciates the community spirit but would be hesitant to be there collecting money and interacting. Steve would not take part in the plant sale and believes it makes sense to be safe by cancelling the event. Karen might not feel comfortable taking checks. David Demarest agrees with Pat Lamphere and notes historical events of the 1918 pandemic. Betsy believes we should cancel the event because we won't be able to replicate the format.

Karen suggests a plant sale alternative and considers contacting Ryan Oches to find out about chestnut trees and blueberry bushes. The group considers the idea of taking online orders and having people come pick them up. The pre-order donations could be through Venmo, Paypal or mailing a check. Amy will contact Ryan Oches about the plants.

Karen, Betsy and Amy all plan to attend and/or observe the farmers market separately tomorrow. Further discussion about the plant sale will be held at the next meeting on Monday, June 8 at 6:30pm.

Betsy will post to FPF before the weekend that there will not be a sale at this time.

6:57 p.m. Crane Brook Conservation District: Bridge Proposal & Discussion

Steve discusses the wooden walkway over a wet area (not vernal pond). Mike Weisel has a bridge he is willing to donate. Trail will be slightly re-routed to avoid wet area in mud season. Karen will check with Andrew Strniste to make sure it does not require a permit and is approved by town. Similar walkways have previously been approved by town. Update to follow at Monday's meeting.

David Demarest asks about the specific location of the bridge. Karen describes the location is close to Irish Settlement Road, at the top of the fields the trail at end of field on left, goes down through woods on a slight hill to the wet area.

Anton Kelsey has been invited to Monday's meeting for collaboration with the Recreation Committee.

Betsy suggests an agenda item to talk about the Conservation District & Signage.

Amy mentions Knotweed project monitoring as no one has signed up for next week and onward. Steve will send an email with the link to the sign-up document.

Steve wonders about the possibility of using ¼ inch hardware cloth and Amy considers what is the best size for the stalks to take the most energy from the rhizomes before they girdle themselves, it may be ½ inch.

David Demarast has not seen the trial patch but believes there is sound hearing in using the smaller size mesh and appreciates this control method as well as Steve's posting about the health and food benefits of knotweed.

7:09 p.m. Adjourn Nancy makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, Daphne seconds. Motion passes 8-0 and the meeting is adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Minutes approved June 8, 2020.

Minutes submitted by Laurie Graham.